

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A natural evaporation type humidifier, comprising:
~~the humidify element of claim 20~~ a humidifying element, which is absorptive, including a plurality of humidifying segments by folding a sheet-shaped absorptive member; and
a case which is free to open and close having an inner space where said humidifying element is stored[.].
wherein a position of said humidifying element changes when said case is opened.
2. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element deforms and extends when said case is opened.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is free to attach to and detach from said case.

5. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidify humidifying element.
6. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 5, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.
7. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said inner space is a liquid reservoir to store liquid for moistening said humidify humidifying element.
8. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 7, wherein said humidify element comprises a plurality of humidify humidifying segments which are connected by a connect connecting portion, [[and]] wherein a part of every humidify humidifying segment is soaked in the liquid in said liquid reservoir.
9. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 8, wherein said connect connecting portion to connect said plurality of humidify humidifying segments are a plurality of fold portions, and said plurality of humidify humidifying segments are bellows-shaped by folding said plurality of fold portions.
10. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 9, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at the position of said fold portion of said humidify humidifying element.

11. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 10, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

12. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion having a first open retaining ~~engage means engagement device~~ and a second case portion having a second open retaining ~~engage means engagement device~~ to engage with said first open retaining ~~engage means engagement device~~, and

wherein said first case portion and said second case portion are fixed by engaging said first open retaining ~~engage means engagement device~~ and said second open retaining ~~engage means engagement device~~, when said first case portion and said second case portion are opened.

13. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and said inner space for storing said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is formed [[at]] in both of said first case portion and said second case portion, and

wherein one end of said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said first case portion, and the other end of said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said second case portion.

14. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 13 ~~having two of said humidify elements~~,

wherein one end of one ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is fixed to said first case portion, and one end of the other ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is fixed to said second case portion, and

wherein the other ends of said ~~humidify~~ humidifying elements which are not fixed to said case are connected by a deformable connect member.

15. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and one end of said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is attached to said first case portion, and the other end is attached to said second case portion, and

wherein a water ~~receive~~ receiving portion is disposed as a liquid reservoir made of water-repellant material being free to extend and contract, as one end is attached to said first case portion and the other end is attached to said second case portion.

16. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said ~~humidify~~ humidifying element is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

17. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said water ~~receive~~ receiving portion is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

18. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a ~~second~~ first locating ~~means~~ device is formed in said case to engage with said humidify humidifying element, and a first ~~second~~ locating ~~means~~ device is formed at said humidify element to engage with said ~~second~~ first locating ~~means~~ device.

19. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, comprising a blower at the vicinity of said humidify humidifying element, wherein said humidify humidifying element receives ~~the wind~~ blown air from said blower.

20. (Currently Amended) A humidify humidifying element comprising a plurality of humidify humidifying segments by folding a sheet-shaped absorptive member along a center fold portion that is formed as a zig-zag shape.

21. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of humidify humidifying segments are displaced having the folding position as a boundary.

22. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 20, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidify humidifying segment.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim [[23]] 20, wherein a slit is formed along said center fold portion.

25. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim [[23]] 20, comprising a plurality of humidify humidifying segments defined by said center fold portion and a plurality of sectional fold portions, wherein the member folded into two along said center fold portion is folded approximately perpendicular to said center fold portion at said plurality of sectional fold portions into a bellows shape.

26. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 25, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said sectional fold portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 26, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

28. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 25, wherein the folding direction changes every time said center fold portion crosses said sectional fold portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The humidify humidifying element according to claim 25, comprising:

a ~~connect~~ connecting segment which connects to at least one humidify humidifying segment for binding up one end of all said plurality of humidify humidifying segments;

a first ~~engage means engagement~~ device which is formed at said connect segment; and

a second ~~engage means engagement~~ device which is formed at least at one ~~humidify humidifying~~ segment for engaging with said first ~~engage means engagement~~ device.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~humidify humidifying~~ element according to claim 29, wherein said first ~~engage means engagement~~ device is one of an insert segment and a slit, and said second ~~engage means engagement~~ device is the other of an insert segment and a slit.

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~humidify humidifying~~ element comprising a plurality of absorptive ~~humidify humidifying~~ segments which one end is connected by a ~~connect connecting~~ portion.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~humidify humidifying~~ element according to claim 31, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said ~~humidify humidifying~~ segment.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~humidify humidifying~~ element according to claim 32, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

34. (Currently Amended) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein the case includes

a link portion to which said ~~humidify humidifying~~ element is fixed being free to attach and detach.

35. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 34, comprising a first case portion and second case portion;

wherein said link portion is formed at least at either said first case portion or said second case portion, being an arm portion to sandwich a part of said ~~humidify~~ ~~humidifying~~ element by forming a gap with an inner wall of said first and second case portion portions.

36. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:
a first closure retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is closed; and
a second closure retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first closure retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device.

37. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 36,
wherein said first closure retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device is a deform member which is displaced by external force, and said second closure retaining ~~means~~ engagement device is a projection which is disposed at a cover, and wherein said projection links with and unlinks from said deform member in accordance with the displacement of said deform member.

38. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:
a first open retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is opened; and

a second open retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first open retaining ~~engage means~~ engagement device.

39. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a liquid discharge gap for connecting said inner space with outside is formed at said reservoir.

40. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 35, wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a ~~retain means~~ retaining device for retaining said humidify humidifying element is formed in said reservoir.

41. (Currently Amended) The humidifier case according to claim 35, wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a locating ~~means~~ device for engaging with said humidify humidifying element is formed in said reservoir.

42 (New) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein
said sheet-shaped member is folded along a central fold portion that is formed as a
zig-zag shape.